



Thursday, March 25, 2010

For Immediate Release

York Region remembers former Regional Councillor Arthur “Bud” Bonner

Members of York Regional Council observed a moment of silence in honour of former Markham Councillor and York Regional Councillor Arthur “Bud” Bonner, who passed away on February 27th at the age of 81.

Mr. Bonner was appointed as a York Regional Councillor in 1984 following the appointment of Carole Bell as Mayor of the Town of Markham, and was elected to a second term from 1986 to 1988.

During his second term, Mr. Bonner served on the Region’s Health and Social Services Committee (later known as the Health and Community Services Committee), which oversaw:

- The creation of a 911 Task Force
- Fluoridation of the Region's water supply
- Formation of a dental program for high risk children in need of treatment
- Formation of a new York Region Non-Profit Housing Corporation

York Region recognizes Administrative Professional Week

York Region will recognize Administrative Professional Week between April 19 and 23. Administrative Professional Week, and Administrative Professionals Day on Wednesday, April 21st, recognizes the contributions of administrative professionals, including administrative assistants, executive secretaries and office coordinators. The International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP) has more than 1,500 members in 34 chapters across Canada.

Greater Toronto Airport Authority updates Regional Council on Toronto Pearson International Airport

Representatives from the Greater Toronto Airport Authority (GTAA) made a presentation to York Regional Council and discussed how cultural diversity is contributing to the growth and prosperity of both York Region and Toronto Pearson International Airport. The GTAA expressed that Pearson plays a major roll in helping York Region businesses access export markets and helps to attract jobs and foreign investment to York Region and the Greater Toronto Area.

York Region Heart Alive program expands to YRT and local shelters

York Regional Council has approved the expansion of the Heart Alive program to York Region Transit (YRT) staff and three emergency shelters in York Region. Twenty-six new life-saving automated external defibrillators (AEDs) will be funded through a Heart and Stroke Foundation grant to enable staff in public locations to treat victims of sudden cardiac arrest.

The new AEDs will be shared between YRT enforcement and operations staff for use at transit stops and on vehicles, as well as York Region shelters Leeder Place, Porter Place and Youth Shelter. The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario will pay up to \$3,500 for each of the 26 AEDs purchased by the Region for a total estimated cost of \$91,000.

Celebrate Sustainable Works with York Region this April and May

The Regional Municipality of York invites residents to join in the 2nd Annual celebration of *Sustainable Works* over the months of April and May. *Sustainable Works: Public Works partnering with our communities* promotes the role of Public Works in environmental sustainability through a series of community activities and events.

York Region public works encompasses the services of transit, roads, forestry, solid waste management, water and wastewater within York Region's Transportation Services and Environmental Services Departments. Hundreds of York Region staff and volunteers and thousands of residents will participate in more than 25 community events throughout Sustainable Works months.

Residents can find more information on Sustainable Works in upcoming newspaper advertisements, YorkWorks community newsletter delivered to all York Region homes and the Region's website at www.york.ca

York Region receives Certificate of Appreciation for commitment to sustainable forest management

York Region has received a Certificate of Appreciation from the World Wildlife Fund, Canadian Boreal Initiative, David Suzuki Foundation and Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society for the sustainable management of the York Regional Forest.

The 2,200-hectare (5,436 acres) York Regional Forest was the first publically-owned forest in Canada to be certified as sustainable by the Forest Stewardship Council in 2000.

York Region plants thousands of trees as part of 2009 Greening Strategy successes

The Regional Municipality of York's Greening Strategy experienced tremendous success in 2009 with the preservation of several environmentally-sensitive properties, promotion of environmental stewardship through various programs and planting of tens of thousands of new trees.

The Region's environmental efforts earned national recognition in June 2009 from the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators, who bestowed their Award of Excellence for the Environment. York Region reached a number of significant milestones for our Greening Strategy in 2009, including:

- Securing 73 hectares (180 acres) on three environmentally-significant properties in partnership with the Nature Conservancy Canada, the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and the Town of Richmond Hill
- A 28-hectare (69 acres) expansion of the York Regional Forest through recently secured properties
- Planting 80,000 trees and shrubs in backyards, along streams and along street rights-of-way
- Promoting environmental stewardship to thousands of residents through the popular York Children's Water Festival, Earth Week, Nature's Classroom programs for schools and monthly forest walks and festivals

The 2009 Greening Strategy successes build upon a number of impressive accomplishments since the initiative began in 2001. York Region has worked with environmental partners to help secure more than 850 hectares (2,100 acres) of environmentally-significant properties and planted more than 800,000 trees and shrubs. York Regional Council allocates \$1.35 million annually to the York Region Greening Strategy for its property securement and education programs.

Speed limit revisions and traffic signal installation to proceed at Green Lane and Woodspring Avenue in Town of East Gwillimbury

York Region has approved the installation of traffic signals at the intersection of Green Lane and Woodspring Avenue in the Town of East Gwillimbury, as well as a speed limit reduction from 80 km/h to 70 km/h to help accommodate recent and proposed development in the area.

The speed limit change will affect the area 100 metres west of Woodspring Avenue to Yonge Street and will commence following the enactment of a speed limit bylaw. The intersection signal will be installed by the developer of the area's Harvest Hill subdivision following approval by the Region.

Yonge Street speed limit revision in Town of Richmond Hill

York Region will reduce the speed limit on Yonge Street between Highway 7 and Major Mackenzie Drive in the Town of Richmond Hill from 70 km/h to 50 km/h.

York Region awards YRT southwest division contract to Veolia Transportation Inc.

York Regional Council has approved a York Region Transit (YRT) contract valued at more than \$139 million with Veolia Transportation Inc. for the start-up, operations and maintenance of transit service in York Region's southwest division

Veolia startup activities will begin April 5, 2010, including employee recruitment, facility and equipment commissioning and administration before a five-year operating term begins August 1, 2010.

The contractor will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of approximately 30 routes and 125 vehicles. The southwest contract will be operated out of York Region's new transit facility located at 8300 Keele Street in the City of Vaughan.

York Region donates three decommissioned EMS vehicles

York Regional Council approved the donation of three Emergency Medical Services (EMS) ambulances to a relief organization in Haiti, Centennial College in the City of Toronto and Ontario Police College in Aylmer, Ontario.

The three vehicles decommissioned in early 2010 will be used for medical attention in Haiti, driver training in the Centennial College paramedics program and police training at Ontario Police College.

Successful operator certificate renewal for EMS

York Regional Council received a report on the successful completion of the Ministry of Health and Long-term care certification review for York Region Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

As a result, renewal of the EMS Land Ambulance Operator Certificate through to December 31, 2012 will ensure continued delivery of quality service to all York Region residents and visitors.

2009 York Region Tourism Program reviewed

York Regional Council today received an overview of the 2009 York Region tourism program, including the marketing, industry relations and destination development initiatives that were implemented last year.

In 2009, the core activities were marketing and industry partnership development. The marketing program focused on promoting York Region by experience and by season, utilizing on-line advertising, radio and print media directed at leisure consumers and the meetings and group markets in York Region, the GTA and Ontario.

Industry partnership development included the facilitation of four educational workshops, a redesigned Keynote, Meeting and Conference Planner and ongoing consultations to assist the tourism industry in making informed decisions.

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities provided \$420,000 in funding to modify the existing York Region Tourism Customer Service program to include an online training toolkit.

2010 YorkLink Directory approved

York Regional Council today reviewed an update to the *2010 YorkLink Directory* edition and approved the printing, release and promotion of the directory along with the website, www.yorklink.org

Now in its 11th year, *YorkLink* continues to inform local communities, school boards, other levels of government and community agencies about more than 700 agencies and service providers in The Regional Municipality of York that are listed in this comprehensive guide.

For people with visual disabilities, *YorkLink* is available in a pdf format. In addition, York Region offers assistance to users in 12 languages. For assistance, please call 1-877-263-6867.

For more information, please visit www.yorklink.org To obtain a printed copy, call 905 830-4444 or 1-877-464-9675, ext. 2101, or email yorklink@york.ca

Next meeting of York Regional Council

York Regional Council will meet on Thursday, April 22nd at 9:30 a.m. at the York Region Administrative Centre Council Chambers, located at 17250 Yonge Street in the Town of Newmarket.

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